Diversion of Central Funds for Rural Development

1516. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there exists any Central Government agency to inspect and check up the rural development works sponsored and funded by the Central Government and excecuted by the State Governments, to ensure quality and effective implementation of the work and proper utilisation of the funds ;

(b) if not, how the Central Government know that the funds allotted by it are properly utilised ; and

(c) whether Government are aware that some State Governments divert certain funds, allotted for particular programmes, to some other schemes, defeating the purpose of the Central Government programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b) The various rural development programmes launched by the Ministry of Rural Development are reviewed through monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports received from the State Governments. Besides, officers at the Centre also closely monitor all aspects of the programme through visits to work sites. Besides, these programmes are also reviewed from time to time through meetings with State Secretaries of Rural Development, bank officials and with the project directors of DRDAS (District Rural Development Agencies). Recently, Ministry of Rural Development has introduced an 'Area Officers' scheme to inspect and check up rural development works sponsored and funded by the Central Government and executed by the State Governments to ensure quality and effective implementation of the works as well as proper utilization of funds. Under the scheme, senior officers of the Ministry are allotted specific State/UTs, to over-see the progress and performance of various rural develoomment programmes. Officers from the departments of Administrative Reforms, Programme Implementation, Wasteland Development and the Planning Commission are also associated in this scheme. Area officers make periodical visits to the States/UTs, allotted to them and make critical review of various programmes being implemented in the districts. Based on their assessment/findings, the Ministry take necessary remedial measures for proper implementation of the programmes in consultation with the State authorities.

(c) As regards diversion of funds by the State Governments, no such instances have come to notice of the Government. Accounts of the DRDAs and Zilla Parishads responsible for executing the programmes at the district level are audited every year to ensure proper utilisation of funds.

Target for Rural Health under MNP

1517. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the target set up under Minimum Needs Programme for programmes under Rural Health during the last three years ;

(b) how far these have been achieved ;

(c) what is the state-wise financial allocations made under MNP for Rural Health, during the last three years ;

(d) how far these funds have been utized by the States ;

(e) whether there have been instance of under utilisation of funds ;

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(g) what corrective measures are being taken by the concerned States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b) The target and achievements under rural health under MNP during last three years, state-wise is given in annexure- 3 [Appendix 170, Annexure No. 35]

(c) to (g) The outlay/revised estimate and expenditure of MNP under rural Health, statewise, during last three years is given in annexure [Appendix 170, Annexure No. 36].